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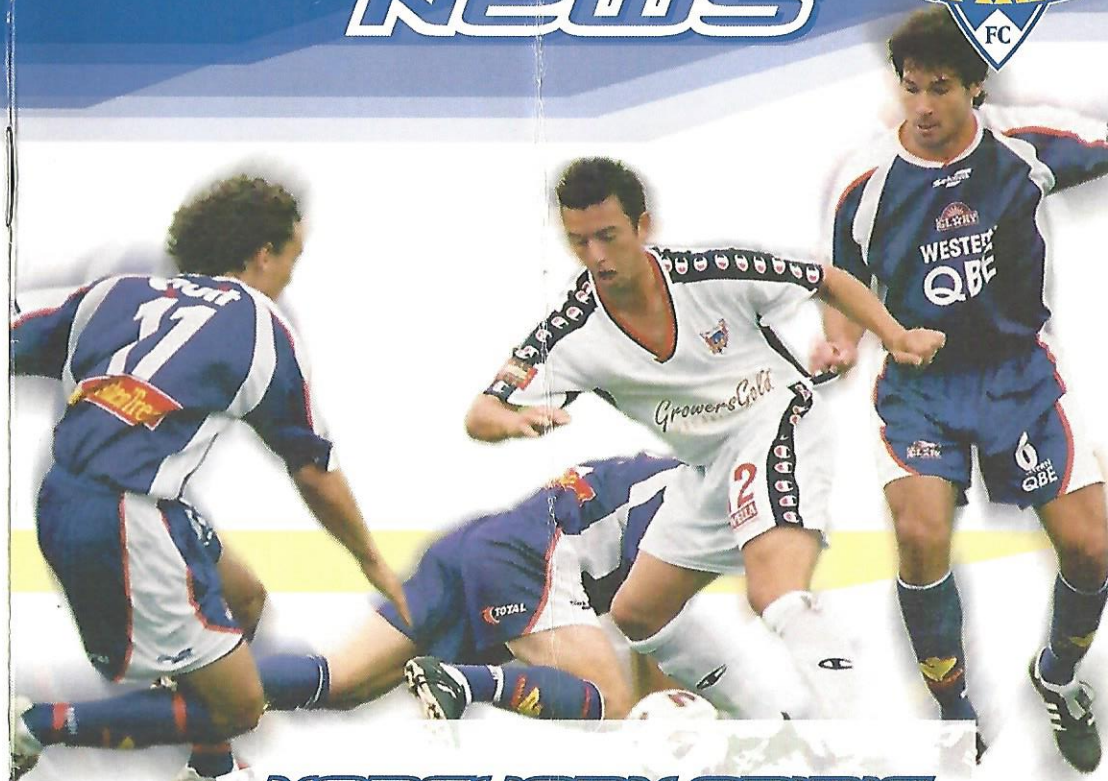
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**SPIRIT
NEWS**



**NORTHERN SPIRIT
VS
WOLLONGONG WOLVES**

Sunday 2 November, 2003

Kick off at 6.30pm

John Hutchinson – 150 NSL matches

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Antonio Gelonesi – Chairman



Welcome back to Pittwater Park as today we take on the Wollongong Wolves. From this week onwards the Northern Spirit Youth side will be playing a curtain raiser prior to each NSL match and I invite you down to see them in action. Our Youth

players are a talented team and have been playing fantastic soccer so far this season. They are also Spirit's future, so if you can, come down early to see them from 4pm each week.

Spirit are glad to be home this week after pulling off an exciting win against the Melbourne Knights in Melbourne last weekend. What is always one of the toughest away matches turned into our second win of the season and a valuable three points. Let's hope the team is able to put together their third win in tonight's match.

Last time we were here at Pittwater Park we were treated to a match that featured eight goals. While some of the goals stemmed from defensive errors, from the sidelines it was a match full of entertainment. In particular I was impressed with the attitude that our team displayed.

Going into the game against Perth we had been playing well but only had one win from four starts. We went ahead quickly but then made three errors to find ourselves down 3-1 just 15 minutes into the game. At that stage we could have easily sat back and accepted that as the result but our Spirit team showed determination and confidence to fight back. To my delight the team was soon at 3-3 and

what a game it was! That we finally went down 5-3 is no disgrace, our heart and determination to fight was fantastic and scoring three goals against last season's champions is an achievement in itself.

Off the field plenty of progress has been made especially with our new web site. With features and options constantly being added I invite you to visit the site at www.northernspirit.com.au. New to the site are sections from Lawrie, myself and importantly our fans. If you have a case that you would like put forward from your point of view I invite you to send it through to us at marketing@northernspirit.com.au for addition to the site. We can't promise everything will be published but we would like to provide a forum where clear and constructive viewpoints can be posted for thought and discussion.

We have also been continuing with our upgrade of the ground facilities and with improvements to the lighting here at Pittwater Park we have been able to consider moving our matches to Friday nights. A recent poll on our web site highlighted this move as a positive one for the majority of our fans and we appreciate your feedback. We are working with the Australian Soccer Association and our opposing teams to see if we can move some of our fixtures. Please stay tuned as we keep you up to date on any fixture changes.

Today, special mention has to go to John Hutchinson who will play his 150th NSL match against Wollongong tonight. On behalf of the Club and the fans who enjoy watching you play, congratulations John!

Thank you again for your ongoing support of the Club and I hope you enjoy today's matches!

NORTHERN SPIRIT
VS
WOLLONGONG WOLVES

Sunday 2 November, 2003

Kick off at 6.30pm

www.northernspirit.com.au

View From the Top – Lawrie McKinna

It's nice to return home with three points from a very difficult away game to Melbourne Knights. In Melbourne the boys performed well in wet and windy conditions and deserved the win. Last year we scored in the first minute but this year we had to wait for the second minute for the goal via a great volley by Dylan Macallister.



do in the game but made two outstanding saves in the last ten minutes to keep us in front. Hendo's penalty save was something special as the kick was well struck and heading for the bottom corner before he stretched to his left to push it away.

We return to Pittwater tonight to face Wollongong who will want to put up a good display after a slow start to the season. Thanks for coming along today to show your support for the Club as we try to gain a good result from this match.

Last fortnights home clash with Perth Glory might have provided lots of goals and entertainment but that came about through a poor defensive display which we can simply not repeat tonight against the Wolves. The loss of Noel Spencer through suspension and the young boys away with the Australian U/20s will mean a shuffle from last week's squad and the opportunity for other players to step up.

Enjoy the game and keep up the support!

In general, however, the defence played well with Julian Watts and Paul Henderson figuring prominently. In truth Hendo did not have much to

Our Visitors Today – Wollongong Wolves



Stuart Young (capt)

Wollongong Wolves will look to come out firing tonight after last weekend's bye. They started the season poorly with three straight losses before bouncing back with a win against the Knights in Melbourne in round four.

As Spirit will testify, winning in Melbourne is not an easy thing to do and apart from a 4-0 trouncing by South Melbourne in round three the Wolves have been competitive in their matches despite the losses.

Andrew Crews (#1) is the last line of defence and is a steady experienced figure in front of a youthful back line that continues to undergo changes. Ben Blake (#17) is the most experienced defender at full back with over 50 National League games to his credit.

Things are a little bit more familiar in the midfield four with Nahuel Arrarte (#8), Liam Austin (#11), Michael Hawrysiuk (#6) and Shane Lyons (#7) being involved in most games up to now. Look for Lyons and Austin being the wide players who will press forward with Arrarte and Hawrysiuk trying to pull the strings in the middle of the park.

John Majurovski (#13) is the new face up front for the Wolves who will partner a great servant of the club in Captain Stuart Young (#10). Young is Wollongong's greatest ever goal scorer on 53 goals and when you consider this has been from 111 games then he averages close to a goal every second game. Clearly he is someone who the Spirit defence will have to watch very closely.

It promises to be a very entertaining game. Unlikely to have eight goals as we witnessed a fortnight ago but look for Spirit to build on last weeks result with another three points. Go the Spirit!

Spirit Sevens

Do you miss playing soccer over the long summer months? Wish you could have fun and kick a ball with some mates? Want to maintain your fitness level? Northern Spirit has the answer, simply play in our Spirit Sevens tournament!

Spirit Sevens is a new seven a side tournament that will be held at Pittwater Park from November 2003 to February 2004. Registrations are still open for the competition that will run on Monday/Tuesday nights, but get in quick as it's due to start soon! With 15 minute halves and the chance to play in the final that will be a curtain raiser to a Northern Spirit match, you'd be crazy to miss out!

Find out more or register your team by calling (02) 9349 6376.

Get your Northern Spirit Merchandise TODAY!

To look like your favourite Spirit player or just support the team, grab your official merchandise at today's match! With a full range of gear you can buy the latest Spirit merchandise available! Check out the range and sizes at the merchandise stall today!





NORTHERN SPIRIT

Shirt No.	Name	Playing Position	Date of Birth
1	Paul Henderson	Goalkeeper	22/04/76
2	Julian Watts	Defender	17/03/71
3	Wayne O'Sullivan	Midfield	25/02/74
4	Noel Spencer	Midfield	26/07/77
5	Alex Tobin	Defender	03/11/65
6	Vuko Tomasevic	Midfield	13/02/80
8	Ian Ferguson	Midfield	15/03/67
9	Adam Kwasnik	Striker	31/05/83
10	Dylan Macallister	Striker	17/05/82
11	Jonathan Richter	Midfield	12/04/83
12	John Hutchinson	Midfield	29/12/79
14	Bradley Groves	Midfield	29/01/82
16	Brent Fisher	Striker	06/07/83
17	Stewart Petrie	Striker	27/02/70
18	Alex Wilkinson	Defender	13/08/84
22	Matthew Osman	Defender	29/07/83
23	Steven Baveas	Midfield	07/04/84
24	Oliver Skelding	Midfield	02/05/85
25	Omar Obeid	Midfield	23/05/85
26	Andrew Mailer	Midfield	19/04/84
28	Matthew Hunter	Defender	29/04/84
29	Michael Mouyis	Defender	04/06/85
30	Jacob Rex	Goalkeeper	04/10/84
31	Travis Oughtred	Defender	02/07/85
33	Mark Milligan	Defender	04/08/85



WOLLONGONG WOLVES

Shirt No.	Name	Playing Position	Date of Birth
1	Andrew Crews	Goalkeeper	18/08/73
2	Borislav Dragas	Defender	06/03/78
3	Jacob Timpano	Defender	03/01/86
4	Mirko Jurilj	Defender	04/11/73
5	Adam Hughes	Midfield	14/07/82
6	Michael Hawrysiuk	Midfield	26/03/78
7	Shane Lyons	Midfield	29/08/79
8	Nahuel Arrarte	Midfield	26/11/80
9	Tanju Balabanel	Striker	16/08/80
10	Stuart Young	Striker	16/12/72
11	Liam Austin	Striker	03/05/81
12	Steven DeGiovanniello	Midfield	08/07/77
13	John Majurovski	Striker	14/04/83
14	Danial Cummins	Defender	24/09/77
15	Dustin Wells	Midfield	31/05/83
16	Stewart van Bentum	Midfield	14/04/75
17	Ben Blake	Defender	26/01/76
18	Chimaobi Nwaogazi	Striker	27/11/79
19	Vlado Zoric	Midfielder	30/07/70
20	Scott Whalan	Goalkeeper	08/01/82



From the Terrace – Graham Hand

The game against Perth Glory had enough agony and ecstasy to satisfy any soccer fan desperate for the game to succeed in this country. It included an NSL record of seven goals by half time, moments of sheer skill followed by total ineptitude, and a pathetic five minute spell when Spirit conceded three goals. You could see steam bursting out of Lawrie's ears like a cracked boiler.

In Damian Mori and Bobby Despotovski, Glory has the most potent strike force in the competition. Mori's thighs would put a water buffalo's to shame, and when Spirit gifted him the second goal, he must have thought it was the 25th of December. It was his 212nd goal in the NSL, and his records may stand forever. He runs triangles with Despotovski and midfielder Hassell that are a terrifying sight to any NSL defence. With Spirit missing Tobin, Wilkinson and Milligan from defence, Matt Osman at right back had more ground to cover than a Texas Ranger. To his credit, he scored a goal of his own, turning his nightmare to a dream in a few short minutes.

It all started before some fans had even found a seat. The busy and creative O'Sullivan gave Spirit a quick lead, but it became 1-3 in the time it takes to buy a hot dog. Tenaciously, Spirit fought back to 3-3 shortly before half time, including a spectacular,

defence-splitting run by Dylan Macallister, which led to the Osman goal. Then suddenly, just as everyone in the packed grandstand had stopped celebrating and was preparing to buy another beer from the rapidly emptying wheelbarrow, there was another defensive fluff and Perth was up 4-3. We didn't know whether to laugh or cry. When Hassell made it five and looked like adding a sixth, a Spirit win seemed as likely as George W. Bush winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

Although on paper, Spirit has plenty of players in its first team squad, half of them are 20 years old or less, and they are investments in the future. Blood too many in a game, and that's what you get – blood. Tobin and Ferguson are old enough to be their fathers. With the more experienced youngsters in Wilkinson, Richter and Milligan overseas with the Australian Youth team, and Tobin already out, it was a rotten timing to meet the reigning champions. We now know how Wayne Bennett and the Broncos must feel when all their players go to State of Origin.

The Perth loss made last weekend's win over Melbourne Knights even more important, and goal scorer Dylan Macallister has found an extra cylinder in his engine this year. With two wins from six games, Spirit's next two games are against the

bottom two teams in the league. Victories in both these games will give a respectable four wins from eight starts, and a platform for a finals berth.

Any long term Northern Spirit fan reading about Adelaide United's first game could not fail to draw a comparison to Spirit's debut season, especially the wonderful crowds. Not only did 18,000 South Australians turn up for a game in a city where soccer was supposed to be dead, but 3,500 have bought season tickets. Once again, it shows soccer's potential. It was only a few years ago when Brisbane attracted 40,000 to a home Grand Final, as Perth has in the last two years. Add in the 100,000 who turned up to watch World Cup qualifiers in Melbourne, and there is reason to believe that most states have the ability to support a strong competition. The biggest rating sporting event of 2002 was the real World Cup, watched by over two million people. Let's hope the weary lament about potential actually has

some legs under Frank Lowy's new plans.

In fact, Roy Morgan Research conducted a poll in August 2003 which showed soccer had taken over from cricket as the number one team sport in the country, with 1.2 million participants. Rugby league with 405,000 and rugby union with 240,000 don't come close. The main reason for soccer's growth is the rapid increase in participation by women.

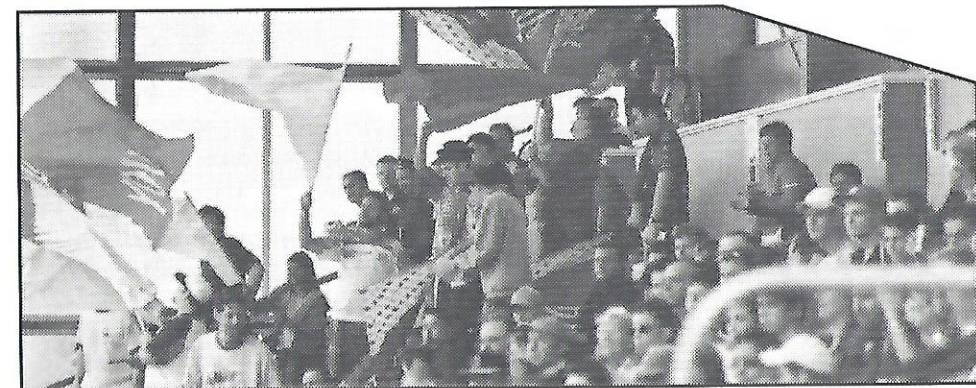
Perhaps that's why Lawrie keeps picking these young lads who would look at home in a Calvin Klein commercial.

With the World Club Championship likely to be revived, a \$15 million funding grant for rebuilding the game, new sponsors at a National level and an Australian team that can mix it with the best, there are many reasons to want Northern Spirit to prosper.

And know you were there when it all began.

NORTHERN SPIRIT HOME MATCHES NSL SEASON 2003/2004

Rnd 7	Sun 2 Nov	Wollongong Wolves	6:30pm	Pittwater Park
Rnd 10	Sun 23 Nov	Sydney United	6:30pm	Pittwater Park
Rnd 12	Sun 7 Dec	South Melbourne	6:30pm	Pittwater Park
Rnd 15	Sun 21 Dec	Newcastle United	6:30pm	Pittwater Park
Rnd 17	Sun 4 Jan	Marconi Stallions	6:30pm	Pittwater Park
Rnd 19	Sun 11 Jan	Melbourne Knights	6:30pm	Pittwater Park
Rnd 21	Sun 25 Jan	Football Kings	6:30pm	Pittwater Park
Rnd 24	Sun 15 Feb	Parramatta Power	6:30pm	Pittwater Park
Rnd 26	Sun 29 Feb	Adelaide United	TBA	Pittwater Park





Next Spirit Match:

**Northern Spirit
VS
Football Kingz**

**Saturday 8 November, 2003
Ericsson Stadium, New Zealand
Kick off at 4.30pm**

Next Spirit Home Match:

**NORTHERN SPIRIT
VS
SYDNEY UNITED**

**Sunday 23 November, 2003
Pittwater Park
Gates open at 3.45pm, Youth League 4.00pm
First Grade 6.30pm**

BRING IT ON!

Northern Spirit Club Contact Details

The Club has now relocated it's training, playing and administration here to Pittwater Park. The new office details are as follows:

Address: 1472 Pittwater Road, Warriewood NSW 2102

Postal Address: PO Box 1739, Warriewood Square NSW 2102

Phone: 02 9970 7211 **Fax:** 02 9970 6211 **Email:** contact@northernspirit.com.au

www.northernspirit.com.au



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